

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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YAOUNDE FOR RDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID

SUBJECT: CAR'S AMBASSADOR CALLS ON AID ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA

1. SUMMARY - CHRISTOPHE MAIDOU, THE CAR'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE US, MADE HIS FIRST COURTESY CALL ON AID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA ON MARCH 9. MR. SCOTT AND THE AMBASSADOR FRANKLY DISCUSSED US BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CAR. THE AMBASSADOR OUTLINED FIVE PRIORITY AREAS IN WHICH GOCAR DESIRED US ASSISTANCE (I.E., TRANSPORTATION, EDUCATION, HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND MINERAL STUDIES). MR. SCOTT TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR GOCAR TO SETTLE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION TO TEXACO AND MOBIL FOR PROPERTIES EX-
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PROPRIATED IN 1972. HIGHLIGHTS OF CONVERSATIONS FOLLOW.

FULL MEMCON BEING POUCHED.

2. MR. SCOTT TOLD THE AMBASSADOR HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO VISITING THE CAR IN ORDER TO GET A FIRST-HAND VIEW OF THE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AS PERCEIVED BY THE GOCAR. MAIDOU EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CURRENT US BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO CAR, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THE WELL-DRILLING PROGRAM. HE AGREED THAT A VISIT TO THE CAR WOULD INCREASE SCOTT'S UNDERSTANDING OF THOSE PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO LAND-LOCKED NATIONS LIKE CAR.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SCOTT'S QUERY REGARDING THE PRIORITY AREAS FOR WHICH GOCAR WAS SEEKING INCREASED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, MAIDOU LISTED THE FOLLOWING:

A. CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PORT ON THE OUBANGUI RIVER AT A POINT NAVIGABLE DURING THE DRY SEASON TO ELIMINATE TRANSPORT PROBLEMS WHICH ANNUALLY RESTRICT THE MOVEMENT OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW PORT, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO PAVE A 50-MILE STRETCH OF ROAD BETWEEN THE PORT SITE AND MBAIKI.

B. ASSISTANCE IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WHICH WOULD LEAD TO INCREASED YIELDS FROM AREAS PRESENTLY UNDER CULTIVATION.

C. THE CONSTRUCTION OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TEACHER-TRAINING PROGRAMS COMMENSURATE WITH THE INCREASED NUMBER OF SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN.

D. HEALTH AND SANITATION PROGRAMS SHOULD BE DOVE-TAILED WITH ASSISTANCE IN EDUCATION. A SECOND HOSPITAL IN BANGUI AND MORE RURAL DISPENSARIES ARE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO RELIEVE OVER-CROWDING AND CONGESTION AT EXISTING CENTRAL HOSPITAL. THERE IS ALSO A NEED FOR A MEDICAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

E. ASSISTANCE FOR FURTHER STUDIES OF CAR'S MINERAL PRODUCTION POTENTIAL.

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4. MAIDOU EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR AID TO PROVIDE COUNTRIES LIKE THE CAR WITH SPECIFIC GUIDELINES REGARDING AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT IN WHICH AID CAN RENDER ASSISTANCE. MR. SCOTT POINTED OUT THAT THE FOREGOING PROJECTS MENTIONED BY MAIDOU WERE CONSISTENT WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE FOR US DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE SECTORS OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, HUMAN RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURE.

5. SCOTT STRONGLY EMPHASIZED THAT BEFORE AID COULD
CONSIDER NEW PROPOSALS FOR ASSISTANCE TO CAR, IT WAS
NECESSARY FOR GOCAR TO SETTLE THE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION TO
US PETROLEUM COMPANIES(TEXACO AND MOBIL) FOR PROPERTIES
GOCAR EXPROPRIATED IN 1972. MAIDOU EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION FOR SCOTT'S FRANKNESS AND PROMISED TO
COMMUNICATE TO GOCAR THE MESSAGE REGARDING SETTLEMENT OF
THE EXPROPRIATION ISSUE. INGERSOLL

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